

A TRILOGY

1: A KIDNAPPER

In Kern County
Clete asked everyone he met
about his missing wife
with the funny name

A fellow at the service
station
said he heard someone
call for Lillipet in a
roadside bar

and you don't forget
a name like that

2: A FRIEND IN NEED

Alfie Mendoza
said Man, that's rough
if you can wait
until my day off
I'll take you out there
next Wednesday

3: PETER COTTONTAIL

Headed toward Shafter
in glaring sunlight
Alfie's pickup hummed a tune
of search
Clete saw a rabbit
bounce across the field
and lamented
My poor little kid is
like that rabbit
Peter Cottontail
jumping from place to place
with his mother and her
latest
a deep sigh
I've gotta find my boy